CITY OF NEW YORK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **CONTACT: Laurel Wright-Hinckson**
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NYC DOE SCHOOL TEACHER ARRESTED

Today, investigators from the office of Special Commissioner of Investigation Richard J. Condon arrested 28-year-old Julio Benavides, a Bilingual Math Teacher formerly assigned to the Richmond Hill High School in Queens, on two charges of Criminal Contempt in the 2nd Degree for violating an order of protection issued in connection with a pending criminal case. SCI investigators arrested Benavides on June 13, 2007 on charges of Rape in the 2nd Degree and Endangering the Welfare of a Child for engaging in sexual intercourse with a then 14-year-old female student on several occasions at his home. He was released on his own recognizance, but by the court's order of protection, was required to stay away from the victim. Benavides first violated this order of protection by visiting the student at her Brooklyn residence several times in July. That conduct resulted in an arrest by the New York Police Department in September. Also in July, Benavides again attempted to communicate with the student at LaGuardia Airport in Queens before she embarked on a trip with her family. This contact with the victim resulted in today's arrest. The Department of Education reassigned Benavides to administrative duty after the first arrest.

The Special Commissioner thanks Queens County District Attorney Richard Brown and his office for their cooperation.

The Office of the Special Commissioner of Investigation is part of the New York City Department of Investigation and Special Commissioner Condon reports to Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn.